

Arlington Recycling Committee
Minutes 1/7/11

Present: Gordon Jamieson(co-chair), Nigel Krauss, Ruth Yannetti (DPW), Gail McCormick (Sustainable Arlington), John Bean (Former DEP Director), Mark Fournier(Curbside Organic Recycling Expert), Carolyn Dann (DEP Advisor on PAYT), Pete Howard (Secretary)

TONNAGE: Gordon reported that the annual monthly running total SW tonnage continues flat. There is no clear effect of the Town's switch to single stream recycling about 18 months ago.

PAYT: Pete provided a handout (Ref 1) describing the PAYT program being developed by the Manager's PAYT Steering Committee for consideration by Town Meeting and the BoS. It will require residents to use official 30 gallon bags costing \$2 to hold their solid waste (SW) for curbside collection. This is expected to reduce SW by 25% and generate a net saving to the Town of \$2m. Gordon proposed a warrant article that would allow the Town Meeting to discuss this program and support it. The article would also require the BoS to recommend a vote to Town Meeting. Gordon recommended that the article promote a "mandatory PAYT bylaw". Carolyn objected to "mandatory" because any fee based program must allow residents to option out, in this case by arranging for private SW pickup. Pete suggested "bylaw or resolution" because of known objections by supporters on BoS to the bylaw approach and known objections by Town Meeting members to elaborating our bylaws. ARC members present (3 of 6) support a PAYT article of some kind. Gordon will draft acceptable wording for approval by all members.

CARDBOARD BINS: Ruth announced the Town Manager has directed that the 3 bins at the Town yard have been removed. She said this is because they are used by businesses do not participate in the Town's curbside waste & recycling collection plan, because users leave cardboard on the ground when the are full, and because DPW employees spend hours each week cleaning up. Gordon noted that when the bins were first introduced at ARC request & funding (\$150/week) there was a considerable reduction in the tipping tonnage. He has requested time on the BoS agenda to discuss this issue. Pete will support.

CURBSIDE ORGANIC RECYCLING: Gail reviewed the effort by Sustainable Arlington to interest grocery stores and restaurants in recycling their waste vegetable material. These efforts have been unsuccessful because of the cost involved. Ruth noted that the Town has a grant to buy organic recycling containers for curbside pickup. The details of this program are not completed. Mark has long experience in all kinds of recycling. He has recently started a organic recycling program in the cafeteria at LaSalle College in Newton. During food prep, vegetable scraps are put directly into sealable containers. After eating, diners bring plates to window and workers scrap food & paper into

sealable containers. The result is that the cafeteria has greatly reduced the amount of trash it generates. The dumpsters were "empty". Mark answered many questions and encouraged us to call if more questions arise.

NEXT MEETING

Feb 4 at 7:30, Town Hall Annex

Ref 1 PlanElementsRev2.doc